



# COLLIER HERITAGE FOUNDATION

DISSEMINATING COLLIER FAMILY GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL INFORMATION

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## Searching for the Family of Efford Cobb Collier

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Efford Cobb Collier

Efford Cobb Collier was the son of Robert Collier and the grandson of Vines Collier. Robert Marshall Collier and Isaac Cuthbert Collier were his brothers. Jena Cuthbert (J. C.) Collier was nephew of Efford Cobb.

Efford Cobb left Upson County, Georgia in 1857 and relocated his family in Texas. In 1912, J. C. Collier began trying to locate the family of his Uncle Efford.

The following is from the typed notes of J. C. Collier

Facts regarding Efford Cobb Collier that removed to Texas from Upson County Georgia in 1857.

Efford Cobb Collier was the son of Robert Collier and brother of Robert Marshall Collier. It is said that Efford Cobb Collier removed to Texas with a lot of his neighbors, who were, Roswell Powell and James McCoy. It is said that Efford Cobb Collier had the following children: a son William Vines Collier, one daughter named Fannie and one daughter named Sarah and he resided on what is now known as the old Haygood place in Upson County Georgia, 3 or 4 miles South of The Rock and that his daughter Fannie married Hardy Jackson being his second wife and his daughter Sarah married James Jackson who was the son of Hardy.

I am now endeavoring to secure information from Douglasville Texas, Cass County, where Efford Cobb Collier is said to have moved in the year 1857.

J.C.Collier.

J. C. reportedly sent letters to anyone in Texas he found with the Collier name. Here are some samples of letters he sent in 1912.

**I. C. & J. C. COLLIER**

J. C. COLLIER, OWNER  
GENERAL MERCHANDISE AND  
COTTON GROWERS  
PIEDMONT, GEORGIA

J. C. COLLIER,  
REAL ESTATE AND LOANS  
BARNESVILLE, GA.

J. C. COLLIER CO.,  
DRY GOODS MERCHANTS  
BARNESVILLE, GA.

The COLLIER MANUFACTURING CO., Inc.  
RIBBED UNDERWEAR MANUFACTURERS  
BARNESVILLE, GA.

Barnesville, Ga., October 3, 1912.

Mr. H. V. Collier,  
Waco, Texas.

Dear Sir:


I am trying to trace the family or descendants of Efford Cobb Collier, son of Robert Collier that moved from Upson County, Georgia to Texas sometime during the late 40s or 50s. I think, however, it was during some time between 1850-1860, just prior to the war between the states. I would appreciate it very much if you can give me any information regarding the descendants of this family.

Efford Collier was born in Upson County, Georgia on May 4th 1811--he had brothers by the name of Robert Marshall--William Vines--Isaac Cuthbert. His father was Robert Collier that died in Upson County, Georgia during the year 1850--his mother was Martha Marshall Bocker, and married Robert Collier on May 1st 1806.

I know there are a large number of Collier's in Texas that are descendants of Georgia families that immigrated to Texas around the 40s, 50s and 60s.

I have secured your name from Bradstreet's Reports and trust that you can furnish some information.

Very respectfully,



Having no luck locating Efford's family directly, J. C. sought information from the Powells and McCoys, who were reported to have left Georgia for Texas along with the Collier family.



J. C. & J. C. Collier Inc.

General Merchandise

Cotton Grocers - Grocers - Farm Products  
Milledmont, Georgia

J. C. COLLIER COMPANY  
BARNESVILLE, GA.  
COLLIER MILLS, INC.  
BARNESVILLE AND MACON, GA.

Barnesville, Georgia

Nov. 5, 1923.

*Green City  
Texas*

Gentlemen;

I am endeavoring to secure some information regarding the family of Efford Cobb Collier. Efford Cobb Collier removed from Upson County Georgia in 1857 and is said to have settled in Cass County Texas. At that time there were several other citizens of Upson County that removed to Texas, one was Roswell Powell and the other James McCoy. There were also a lot of Staffords that left here about that time or a little later, have you any of these people in your community?

I understand that only a few years ago the widow of James McCoy, who was named Mrs. Fannie McCoy, was still living in your town, if she is yet living will you kindly hand her this letter and ask her to reply to same or if there are any of the Colliers in and around your town that belong to the family of Efford Cobb Collier will you kindly have them reply to this letter in order that I may arrange to secure information regarding this family?

Efford Cobb Collier was a brother to Robert Marshall Collier and son of Robert Collier of Upson County Georgia. I am a great grandson of Robert Collier and grandson of Robert Marshall. I herewith enclose stamped envelope for reply.

*Atlanta*

Very respectfully,

J.C. Collier.

JCC:C

*My Dear Mr Collier I am a son of Roswell Powell who moved from Upson Co Ga in 1857 with the above mentioned parties except the Staffords who I know nothing of the Colliers went to Cass Tex pretty soon after the Civil War. I visited a brother Long Powell at Corpus Christi Tex a few weeks ago he told me he was one of the Collier descendants living there but I did not meet him if you could let him know where you can get direct information the Powell family has been dead several years much of the children are living about Long Powell's Co Co Tex. Very Respectfully  
H.C. Powell*

This produced results and, in November 1923, J. C. made contact with **J. J. Collier** of Corpus Christi, Texas and grandson of Efford Cobb Collier.

Corpus Christi Texas,

Nov. 22rd 1923,

Mr J.C.Collier,  
Barnesville,  
Ga.

Dear Sir:-

On my return to the City, your letter of Nov. 14th was handed to me by Mr Geo. G. Powell, and it was a surprise to me to know that some of the Colliers was liveing in Ga.

I am sorrow to say that I do not know very much about the history of the Collier family, I am the son of Efford Cuthbert Collier, Isaac Cobb Collier is his brother, he also has brothers named, Robert, John, and Westley, I do not know there full names but can get them, and there address if you want them as they all live in this State,

Isaac Collier died in 1914, his widow is liveing in Mills County Texas, P.O. Center City, they have been liveing there for thirty five years to my knowladge, my father moved from Mills County when I was twelve years old, went to McLennan Co. Waco Tex, and he lived there untill his death, Nov. 14th 1918, my Mother is still liveing, in Waco Texas 603 N.18th St. I am mailing your letter to her,

My father moved from Upson Co. Georgia when he was about ten years old, Roswell A. Powell and James McCoy all moved at the same time to Cass County Texas, you have my Fathers name listed in your letter as Efford Cobb Collier, ( Efford Cuthbert Collier ) Isaac listed as Isaac Cuthbert, ( Isaac Cobb Collier )

If there is any more information I can get for you will be glad to do any thing I can, I am leaveing here this week and wont be back untill the first of Jan. will be in Sabinal Texas Dec. 1st, Box 264, my brother will meet me there and we will go on a Deer hunt for ten days, my Father was a great sportamon and I am following up his trails, I am fourty two years old, and can walk as far as any one, will spend Xmas week on a hunt, and would be glad for you to come and join me, as I have'nt made up my party yet for that hunt, don't know if you enjoy this kind of sport or not, all you need to bring is your gun, you can let me know at Sabinal if it is so you can come,

Will be glad to hear from you at any time, and would like to see you on the hunt, could bring one friend with you,

Yours very truly,



P.S. Address Sabinal Texas Box 264.

There followed connecting with other members of Efford Cobb Collier's widespread family,

Mrs. S. E. Collier:



Jan. 12, 1924.

Mrs. S. E. Collier,  
Waco, Texas.

Dear Cousin;

Your letter of Jan. 1st. duly received and I will go through same very carefully just as quickly as I have the time to devote to this work and any information not contained therein I will write you again for it. There is one thing I notice I requested that you did not give me which I would appreciate and that is the date of the death of your husband's Father, Efford Cobb Collier who was born in 1812 and left Georgia for Texas in 1857.

I am today writing Cousin Fannie Jackson over at Center City, Mills County, Texas. I also had a letter from your son James J. Collier mailed at San Antonio which I appreciated very much.

When I write my regular letter, which may be two or three weeks from now, I will then give you complete information of the members of the original Robert Collier family who are still living here in Georgia, there are only three or four of us however. I know it is a big job to get up all this information but we are getting together fairly well now. I want to visit Texas some time during the spring or early summer if possible as I have never been any farther west than Hot Springs, Ark. and New Orleans, La. altho we have done a great deal of business from our factory in the big Cities of Dallas, Galveston, Ft. Worth, San Antonio and Waco.

If you will send me your weight or size of undergarment you wear I will try and send you a box of our "Collier Cut" brand that we have been shipping all over the United States and also to some foreign countries.

Give my love to all the members of your family and tell them some day I hope to know many of them and that if any of them ever visit Georgia not to fail to loop us up.

My Grandfather Robert M. Collier, Sr. has one son living, Robert M. Collier, Adelaide Apartments, Atlanta, Ga. He has been a traveling salesman from New York houses since he was a boy and he is now just past fifty, he is my Grandfather's baby child and is about my age, we use to play together when we were boys. He has a son that is now about twenty or twenty one also named Robert Marshall Collier that is residing in Charlotte, N.C.

I want to tell you that I had some good luck in finding

Mrs. Fannie Jackson:



Jan. 12, 1924.

Mrs. Fannie Jackson,  
c/o Mrs. I.C. Collier,  
Center City, Texas.

My Dear Cousin Fannie:

I think from what I can understand from letters received from Mrs. S. E. Collier and also James J. Collier that I have correctly named you as my Cousin, as you would be my Father's first Cousin were he living.

I have been endeavoring for a good many years to locate my Grandfather's brother's family that moved to Texas in 1857 and I sent your Sister in law, Mrs. I.C. Collier, a copy of a letter I wrote Mrs. S. E. Collier, your other Sister in law, of Waco, Texas. in order that you may know just what I was writing. I would be glad to hear from you giving me the information requested.

Mr. J.T. Blalock was the gentleman that gave me the information regarding your Father's family. I had been trying since the death of my Father, Isaac Outhbert Collier, in 1908 to locate just where your family was in Texas. I had written many Colliers in that State. I hope some day to see you and know you personally. My Grandfather, Robert Marshall Collier when he died in 1896 was about 82 years old and during his time was one of the largest cotton planters in the State of Georgia and at the time of his death had some thirty or forty plantations. He had a very large family born to him but several of them died during the Civil War, some in infancy, his oldest boy, Robert Thomas was killed in the Civil War and he lost some four or five children after the Civil War, two of them when they were infants etc. After I hear from you I will write you a complete letter of his family. I am attaching herewith carbon copy of letter I have just written to your Sister in law, which will apply to you also and will also apply to your Sister in law you live with, Mrs. Isaac Cobb Collier.

Sincerely,

JCC:G

Edward Fluellen Collier:

Feb. 16, 1924.

Mr. Edward Finellen Collier,  
Menard, Texas.

Dear Sir;

I have just learned from Mr. Hardy R. Collier that you are some of my Uncle Efford Cobb Collier's family. I am enclosing two copies of letters that are today going out to Hardy and one to John Howard. I would appreciate it if you could assist me in getting up all this data.

Then tell me something about your own family, how many children you have and everything like that, in other words just a little history.

I trust to know you some time during the coming summer and if you should visit Georgia call around to see us. I belong to the Branch of Robert Marshall Collier who was the youngest son of Robert and Martha Booker Collier. There isn't many of us left and it is my endeavor to have all the family become more interested one another and know more about one another and for all of us pull for a higher ideal in life together with mental, moral, social advancement. Some of have done well here in Georgia, haven't been quite so fortunate etc.

Very respectfully,

copies 2 letters.

R. O. Jackson:



Aug. 29, 1924.

Mr. R. O. Jackson,  
Ondeco, Texas.  
Stephens Co.

*copy*

Dear Oliver:

I was talking with Mr. Willis Burnette yesterday, recently from Texas and who has been in Texas for many years, and he gave me your address. I happened to ask him if he knew where you lived. I did not know Mr. Burnette at first yet he use to be my customer many years ago.

He tells me that you have done well which I am glad to hear, that you happened to come in with some of the oil gushers and that you were the Father of 12 children which I was also glad to hear as I think a man that is able to raise and maintain a large family is very fortunate. I have only three children.

I am writing to tell you that after many years search last November I discovered the family of Uncle Efford Cobb Collier who went to Texas in 1857. I also discovered the daughter of Uncle John M. Greene, my and your Grandmother's niece Mrs. Mary Greene Wilson of Douglasville, Cass Co. Texas. This was by accident as neither of us knew the other but I sent out a lot of drag net letters and one of them happened to be placed before her. Uncle Efford died in 1869 and is buried at Douglasville, Tex. but his family just after he died moved West. One of his sons, Edward Flowell Collier resides at Hext, Howard Co., Texas and Hardy R. Collier together with his Mother, the widow of Isaac Groves Collier, a grandson of Uncle Efford, together with Uncle Efford's eldest daughter, Fannie Collier Jackson, who is now in the eighties, reside at Goldthwaite, Mills Co. Texas.

James J. Collier a grandson of Uncle Efford and a son of Efford Cuthbert Collier, resides at Corpus Christi. Efford Cuthbert's widow resides at 602 E. 15th St. Waco, Tex. There are several others also scattered around which I will not take time now to mention, several girls that are married etc. I thought perhaps you would be interested in knowing of your relatives so close by you and perhaps you would be of service to one another

Hardy R. Collier:



Goldthwaite Texas  
R.H. Jan 20 1924

Mr. J. C. Collier  
Barnesville Ga.

Dear Sir

I am send You The Names  
and Dates of Birth and Death  
of my Grandpa Family  
As it shows in my Grandpa  
Bible. Which my Aunt and Your  
Cousin Has. Mrs Fannie Jackson.  
I notice in one letter You refer  
To my Fathers Name as Isaac Cobb  
When it is Isaac Groves Collier  
My Grandpa Family <sup>Come</sup> To Texas in  
1859. So Aunt Fannie said I  
believe She Knows  
our

Jan. 20, 1925.

Mrs. A. M. Harryman,  
1111 Stevens St.,  
El Paso, Texas.

Dear Mrs. Harryman;

I am just in receipt of your letter and am replying promptly for the reason that I have so much of this correspondence in regard to the Collier Family genealogy that it will not do to allow the matter to stand any length of time.

I have brought the Collier Family records all the way from the fifteenth century up to and including the children of Vines Collier who came from Virginia to Georgia in 1780 and settled in Oglethorpe County. He was the Father of thirteen children, nine boys and four girls and one of those boys was Robert Collier who settled in Upson Co. Ga. and died in 1850 long before my day. His wife, Martha Booker Collier, died in 1876. He raised a large family, the boys were named William Vines, Efford Cobb, Isaac Cuthbert, Robert Marshall. Robert Marshall was my grandfather and died in 1896. I have been unable to learn the year that William Vines died, I have the record of the death and birth of Efford Cobb and Isaac Cuthbert, Isaac Cuthbert is buried in Rosehill Cemetery at Macon, Ga. and Efford Cobb at Douglasville, Cass Co., Texas. William Vines was the oldest boy of Robert and Martha Booker Collier and died in Winton somewhere around 1850 to 1860, Winton was then a suburb of Columbus but is now a part of Columbus. I have the date of William Vines birth as I now own the old family Bible of Robert and Martha Booker Collier but I don't know the date of William Vines death or just where he is buried. I have been endeavoring for several years to find this out as William Vines married Martha Raines of Harris Co. Ga. but they left no children.

The daughters of Robert and Martha Booker Collier were:

Edith Louise who married a Sharman.  
Sarah who married a Parham.  
    who married a Menafee  
    who married an Evans.

The Menafee's and Evans' lived in Alabama near Columbus, Ga., the Parhams lived in Meriwether Co. Ga. Sarah who married a Parham secondly married a Lovett her first husband having died. Her descendants are the leading people of LaGrange, the Dunsons, Twitts etc. married her daughters.

I would like for you to write me and tell me just what old family photographs you have belonging to Robert Collier or his

John Howard Collier:



October 22, 1925.

Mr. John Howard Collier,  
Florence, Texas.

Dear John:

I am planning to visit Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas likewise two or three other Western States in a very hurried manner in November and I would be pleased to have you advise me just where you will be during the month of November, and if you will be at home, as I want to make you a visit and get personally acquainted. I cannot name the definite time, but will have to operate on telegraph notice.

I have also a lot of relatives from my Grandmother's side, she being a Greene, a sister of Judge James Greene of Thomaston, Ga., and I want to try and visit them at the same time, and likewise attend to the business matters that I am going to various states to look after.

I trust you will pardon this very brief communication and in the meantime I would be pleased to have you advise me by return mail here at Barnesville just where you will be along about the 15th or 20th of November.

With sincere regards, I beg to remain,

Yours very truly,

J.C. Collier.

JCC/AB

Fannie Collier Preslar:



Klorence T. H.  
May 22. 29

Mr. J. C. Collier  
Dear Cousin

As you have taken  
time to write to us I will  
take time to write you a  
few lines I have heard  
from you since last  
year. long we see James'  
well we received the  
nice wedding announcement  
of your daughter tell  
them we wish them  
well and lots of happiness  
wish that they could see  
us. we sent them  
a little gift not much  
but let them know

July 19, 1926.

Mrs. Robert Reding Collier,  
Lometa, Texas.

My dear Cousin:

Yours of the 15th containing genealogy  
duly received. Please accept my thanks for  
your promptness.1

If any of your children have married  
will you please be kind enough to send me  
by return mail a complete list of who they  
and if possible the date. If you cant give  
me the date, then give me the year and greatly  
oblige.

Cousin Mary Harryman visited me last week  
at my home, and we enjoyed her visit very much.  
She was here just a short time. I carried her  
down to the old Robert Collier home also showed  
her the plantation where Uncle Efford used to live  
long before my day, and also showed her the grave  
of Robert Collier and my great-grandmother Martha  
Booker Collier. These, as you know, were the  
parents of Efford Cobb who moved to Texas. The  
next day I carried her up to Atlanta and entertained  
her the best I could in so brief a period.

Give my love to all the family, and with usual  
sincere regards, I beg to remain

Yours most cordially,

J. C. Collier.

JCC/fp

Mrs. Efford Collier Presler:



May 8th, 1937

Mrs. Efford Collier Premier  
Florence, Texas

My dear Cousin:-

It is with much regret that I read notice of your father's death, Mr. John Howard Collier in your local paper sent me.

Cousin Mary Greene Wilson of Douglasville, Texas passed away Monday May 3rd, and was buried Tuesday at Mt. Pleasant where her daughter Ann resides, who is Mrs. Dr. Witt--her husband being a dentist.

Her two sons, Tom Wilson of Tyler, Texas, and John Wilson, a wholesale grocery merchant of Mt. Pleasant passed away during the past three years, they were comparatively young men.

Cousin Mary was born in Upson county, Ga., and was the daughter of John Miles Greene, she having left Georgia when a child, I assume she was around seventy-five at the time of her death.

Had you telegraphed me of your father's death, I would have wired flowers .

I did not hear from Cousin Mary Christmas, I was myself sick, I imagined she was also sick. I went to the hospital for a very serious operation the last of January from which I have not yet recovered. I had dictated a letter to Cousin Mary about thirty minutes before receiving the telegram that she had passed away, this was a coincidence, as I had been trying to find time to write her for sometime.

With love and very best wishes to you, I am

Sincerely,

J. C. Collier